

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 18,46,646 BSNL mobile connections were working as on 31-03-2007 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. To maintain the market share of BSNL, tariffs are being reviewed from time to time and at present, the rates offered by BSNL are most competitive and affordable for the customer. In addition to above, field units are also authorized to offer different promotional tariffs taking into account the local market conditions.

(c) As a promotional measure, BSNL has introduced plan-103 for post paid customers with outgoing call rate of Rs. 0.50 per min. w.e.f. 16-11-2006. In the pre-paid segment, Excel Platinum, Gold and Silver offers have been launched w.e.f. January 2007 where the prepaid subscriber can make a outgoing calls @ Rs. 0.40 and SMS @ one Paise per message. Full Talk Time and 25% extra talk time were offered on all recharge coupons during the festival sessions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Andhra Pradesh Circle is implementing the discounts announced by BSNL in time, so as to pass on the benefits to all GSM customers without any delay.

Registry for blocking telemarketing calls

3070. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to save the telephone subscribers from the nuisance and harassment caused by telemarketing calls, Government have proposed to establish a registry to provide for blocking of such calls by telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the registry would become operational and whether TRAI could impose financial penalties on violators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c)

Based on the stakeholders responses to a consultation process for finding a solution to restrict Unsolicited Commercial Communication to subscribers who do not want such calls, internal discussions and international practices, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a draft regulation on 23rd April, 2007 for putting in place a mechanism called "National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC)" for curbing the unwanted telemarketing calls.

Keeping in mind the concerns of their consumers, mobile service providers have already introduced "Do Not Disturb" facility for the subscribers who do not wish to receive information on products and services of their mobile service provider. Also, TRAI has advised the mobile subscribers through advertisement in leading newspapers to use this facility.

To tackle the issue of violation of the Regulation, TRAI has provided for a special tariff on per call basis for the violated calls, which will be higher than the normal tariff. If a telemarketer further violates the Regulation, provision has been made in the Regulation that the originating access provider shall disconnect the telephone of the telemarketer.

Computerization of post offices in Karnataka

3071. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices other than non-departmental ones functioning in the State of Karnataka as on 31st March, 2007, district-wise;

(b) the number out of them in which services have been fully computerized, partially computerized, separately;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn to extend the benefit of computerization in post offices during 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices other than non-departmental ones functioning in the State of Karnataka as on 31st March, 2007, district-wise, is given in the Statement I (See below)